1. Three-Stage Examination Architecture

The UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) is conducted across three competitive successive stages:

Stage	Type of Assessment	Papers	Marks Considered for Merit
Stage I: Preliminary Exam	Objective / Multiple Choice (OMR)	2 Papers (GS + CSAT)	Only Paper I (GS) sets cutoff; CSAT is 33% qualif
Stage II: Main Written Exam	Descriptive Conventional Essay	9 Papers (7 Merit + 2 Qual)	1750 Marks (7 Merit Papers form Written Rank)
Stage III: Personality Test	Oral Board Interview	1 Comprehensive Session	275 Marks added to Mains written total = 2025 Ma

2. Preliminary Examination Syllabus (Total 400 Marks)

Paper I: General Studies (GS-I) - 100 Questions | 200 Marks | 2 Hours | Cutoff Determining

- Current Events: Developments of National and International significance across polity, economy, science, and summits.
- History of India and Indian National Movement: Ancient, Medieval, Art & Culture, British Colonial rule and 1857-1947 struggle.
- Indian & World Geography: Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India, global geomorphology, climates, and ocean currents.
- Indian Polity & Governance: Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Fundamental Rights, Statutory Bodies.
- Economic & Social Development: Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Budgeting, RBI Monetary Policy.
- General Issues on Environmental Ecology, Bio-diversity & Climate Change: Conventions, National Parks, Pollution indices.
- General Science: Everyday Scientific Principles, Space Missions (ISRO), Biotechnology, Defence Tech, and AI/Computing.

Paper II: Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) - 80 Questions | 200 Marks | 2 Hours | 33% (66.67 Marks) Qualifying

- Reading Comprehension: Tone analysis, underlying assumptions, crucial inferences, and logical corollaries.
- Interpersonal & Communication Skills: Analytical problem-solving and situational judgment.
- Logical Reasoning & Analytical Ability: Syllogisms, blood relations, seating arrangements, coding-decoding, direction puzzles.
- Basic Numeracy (Class X level): Number Systems, Divisibility, LCM-HCF, Permutations & Combinations, Ratios, Speed & Distance.
- Data Interpretation: Graphs, Charts, Tables, and Data Sufficiency drills.

Negative Marking Rule for Prelims
Every incorrect attempt incurs a deduction of 1/3rd of the marks assigned: -0.66 marks in Paper I, and -0.833 marks in Paper II.

Paper I: Essay Paper (250 Marks)

Candidates write two long essays (1,000 to 1,200 words each) chosen from Section A (Philosophical / Reflective themes) and Section B (S

Paper II: General Studies I (Indian Heritage, Culture, History & Geography of the World & Society

Art, Heritage & Indian Culture:

- Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature, and Architecture from ancient times to the modern era.

Modern Indian History & Freedom Struggle:

- Significant events, personalities, and issues from the middle of the eighteenth century until the present.
- The Freedom Struggle: Various stages, regional contributions, socio-religious reform movements.
- Post-Independence Consolidation and Reorganization: Linguistic states reorganization, tribal integration, boundary disputes.

World History:

- Industrial Revolution, World Wars, Redrawal of National Frontiers, Decolonization, Political Philosophies (Communism, Capitalism).

Indian Society & Diversity:

- Role of Women and Women Organizations, Population and Associated Issues, Poverty, Urbanization, Globalization, Communalism, Secularism

Physical & Human Geography:

- Distribution of Key Natural Resources across the globe (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent).
- Geophysical Phenomena: Earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, Cyclone; Critical geographical features and changes in flora/fauna.

Paper III: General Studies II (Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice & IR - 250 Marks)

- Indian Constitution: Historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions, and basic structure doctrine.
- Functions & Responsibilities of the Union and States: Federal structure, devolution of powers, finance commission awards.
- Separation of Powers: Dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions, comparison of Indian constitutional scheme with others.
- Parliament and State Legislatures: Structure, functioning, conduct of business, legislative powers, parliamentary privileges.
- Statutory, Regulatory and Quasi-Judicial Bodies: Election Commission, UPSC, CAG, NITI Aayog, NHRC, CCI, Green Tribunal.
- Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections: Mechanisms, laws, institutions for performance evaluation; health, education, human resources.
- Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings: Involving India or affecting India interests; Effect of policies of developed nations on India diaspora.

Paper IV: General Studies III (Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Security & DM -

Indian Economy & Planning:

- Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment, Government Budgeting, Fiscal and Monetary frameworks.

Agriculture & Food Supply Chains:

- Major Cropping Patterns, Irrigation Systems, Storage, Transport, and Marketing of Agricultural Produce, e-Technology for farmers.
- Farm Subsidies, Minimum Support Prices (MSP), Public Distribution System (PDS) objectives, functioning, and food security buffer.
- Food Processing and Related Industries in India: Scope, significance, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.

Science & Technology Innovations:

- Developments and applications in everyday life; Indigenization of Technology; Achievements of Indians in S&T.
- Awareness in IT, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, and Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).

Environment, Biodiversity & Disaster Management:

- Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- Disaster and Disaster Management: Sendai Framework, NDMA guidelines, early warning systems, post-disaster rehabilitation.

Internal Security & Border Management:

- Linkages between Development and Spread of Extremism; Role of External State and Non-State Actors in creating challenges.
- Cyber Security Basics; Money Laundering and prevention; Security challenges in Border Areas; Maritime security.

Paper V: General Studies IV (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude - 250 Marks)

This paper evaluates candidate attitudes and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life, and conflict resolution.

- Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; Dimensions of ethics; Human Values.
- Attitude: Content, structure, function; its influence on thought and behavior; Moral and political attitudes; Social influence and persuasion.
- Aptitude & Foundational Values for Civil Service: Integrity, impartiality, non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy.
- Emotional Intelligence: Concepts and their utilities/application in administration and governance.
- Public/Civil Service Values & Ethics in Public Administration: Ethical dilemmas, laws, regulations, accountability, ethical governance.
- Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance; Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Citizen Charters.
- Case Studies: Practical problem-solving scenarios on institutional conflicts, bribery, pressure from political bosses, and emergency relief.

1. Complete List of 48 Optional Subjects

Candidates must choose ONE Optional subject which comprises TWO papers (Paper VI & VII) of 250 marks each (500 Marks total):

Discipline	Optional Subject Choices
Humanities & Social Sci	History, Geography, Political Science & IR (PSIR), Sociology, Public Administration, Philosophy, Psychology
Commerce & Economics	Economics, Commerce & Accountancy, Management
Pure & Earth Sciences	Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Statistics, Geology, Botany, Zoology
Engineering Disciplines	Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering
Medical & Life Sciences	Medical Science, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Science, Agriculture
Law & Languages	Law, Literature of any ONE Language (Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, etc.)

2. Sociology Optional Syllabus Snapshot

- Paper I (Fundamentals of Sociology): Sociological Thinkers (Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Talcott Parsons, Robert Merton, GH Mead
- Social Stratification: Concepts, theories of structural functionalism, gender equality, social mobility, and class consciousness.
- Paper II (Indian Society): Perspectives on Indian Society (GS Ghurye, MN Srinivas, AR Desai); Caste System; Agrarian Social Structure.

3. Anthropology Optional Syllabus Snapshot

- Paper I: Physical Anthropology, Human Evolution, Primatology, Genetics, Socio-Cultural Anthropology (Marriage, Family, Kinship).
- Paper II: Indian Anthropology, Tribal Cultures in India, Problems of Tribal Communities, Forest Rights Act, Tribal Development Plans.

4. Mandatory Qualifying Language Papers (Not Counted in Merit)

Paper	Subject	Total Marks	Passing Threshold
Paper A (Qualifying)	Any One Modern Indian Language from 8th Schedule	300 Marks	25% (75 Marks required to pass)
Paper B (Qualifying)	English Language (Comprehension & Prˆcis Writing)	300 Marks	25% (75 Marks required to pass)

UPSC OTR DOCUMENT SPECIFICATIONS & RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Application Verification Standards & Standard Static Sources | SignResize.in

1. Official UPSC One-Time Registration (OTR) Upload Rules

Failure to comply with dimension and file-size guidelines triggers immediate automated gate rejection on the upsconline.nic.in portal:

Credential	File Format	Byte Size Bounds	Pixel Dimensions	Mandatory Standards
Passport Photograph	JPG / JPEG only	20.0 KB to 300.0 KB	Min 350x350, Max 1000x1000	Face occupies 75%, white/light background, Na
Candidate Signature	JPG / JPEG only	20.0 KB to 300.0 KB	Min 350x350, Max 1000x1000	Black ink ballpoint pen, pure white unruled pap

Free One-Click Image Optimization at SignResize.in

Use our specialized tools at SignResize.in/upsc-photo-resize/ and SignResize.in/upsc-signature-resize/ to prepare compliant JPGs in seconds.

2. Canonical Standard Reference Booklist (NCERT & Core References)

Subject Area	Primary Reference Work	Author / Publisher	High-Yield Focus
Indian Polity	Indian Polity (Latest Edition)	M. Laxmikanth (McGraw Hill)	Fundamental Rights, DPSP, Parliament, Panchayats
Modern Indian History	A Brief History of Modern India	Rajiv Ahir, IPS (Spectrum)	Governor Generals, 1857 Revolt, INC Sessions, INA
Ancient & Medieval India	NCERT Class XI & XII (Old/New)	RS Sharma & Satish Chandra	Indus Valley, Mauryas, Guptas, Delhi Sultanate, Mug
Indian Art & Culture	Indian Art and Culture	Nitin Singhania / Fine Arts NCERT	Temple Architecture, Classical Dances, UNESCO Si
Indian Economy	Indian Economy	Nitin Singhania / Ramesh Singh	National Income, Banking, Budget, Inflation, Forex
Environment & Ecology	Environment	Shankar IAS Academy	Ecosystems, Wildlife Protection Act, UNFCCC CoP
Physical Geography	Fundamentals of Physical Geography	NCERT Class XI	Geomorphology, Atmospheric Circulation, Ocean Cu

3. Official Verification Link & Support

Always cross-verify notification dates and guidelines directly from the official portal at https://upsc.gov.in and https://upsconline.nic.in.